

MINUTES
San Bernardino County
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION PUBLIC SESSION
May 6, 2010; 12:00-2:00 pm
BHRC, 850 E. Foothill Blvd. - Auditorium
Rialto, CA 92376

Commissioners Present:

May Farr, Susan McGee-Stehsel, Michael Hill, Jane Mercer, Christopher Massa, Jane Godager, Gabriel Gonzales, Bill Swift, Tom Rivera, Veatrice Jews, Monica Alonso, Roberto Casas and Talli Simmons on behalf of Supervisor Neil Derry.

Absent:

David Ford and Tanya Perry

Guests:

CaSonya Thomas, DBH Assistant Director; Debi Pasco, Clerk of the Mental Health Commission; Michael Townsend, Office of Supervisor Josie Gonzales; Linda Hart, African American Mental Health Coalition; John Pi, First 5; Claire Karp, Pacific Clinics; Alisa Ramirez, Peter Lopez, South Coast Community Services; Wayne Henkelmann, San Bernardino Courts; Sam Rasmeay, AARC; Faith Ikeda, Pathways to Recovery; Christine Bierdrager PhD; Inland Behavioral & Health Services; Armando Ontiveros, EMQ Families First; Ruth Villarama, Ana Mendiola, Susan Tran, Laura Miller, Anna Ruokis, Ruth Nyerele, Elton Moody, Shawna Alvarez, T. Calderon; Stephanie Mitre, Erin Hall, Kaely Stewart, Kim Toomey; Mark Irving, Public; Veronica Kelley, Megan Johnson, Pat Coffey, Sarah Eberhardt-Rios, Maribel Gutierrez, Doug Fazekas, Cathy Smith, Jennifer Gonzalez, Michelle Dusick, Michael Knight, Dennis Terrones, Lauretta Ross, Paula Rutten, Guadalupe Perez, Doreen Glenn, Tim Hougen, Ruth Guerrero, Bob Sudol, Gary Atkins, Susanne Kulesa, Lynn Neuenswander, Benita Ramsey, Ron Smith, Teri Self, Andy Gruchy, Lisa McGinnis, Michael Day, Barbara Feri, Doris Truner, David Denkers, Maria Coronado, Jonathan Buffong, Julia Perez, DBH.

CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS AND MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

In the absence of Chairperson David Ford, Vice Chairperson Susan McGee-Stehsel called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m. Self introductions followed.

Today's Public Session agenda was approved and the minutes from the April 1, 2010 Mental Health Commission Public Session were approved as written.

CULTURAL COMPETENCY AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Veronica Kelley, DBH Cultural Competency Officer, presented the March 2010 Cultural Competency Award of Excellence to Maribel Gutierrez, Social Worker II, Office of Cultural Competence and Ethnic Services.

"Maribel travels to all ends of the County to conduct meetings and provide trainings for DBH staff and community members. She has developed vital trainings to raise staff awareness of client needs- One Moment Please: Un Momento Por Favor. At a time when the OCCES program was without leadership, Maribel continued to maintain CCAC and Promotores meetings and played an integral role in maintaining operations, professionalism, and unity within her Unit without seeking personal interest or gain. Great Job Maribel and Thank You!"

CINCO DE MAYO, A BATTLE FOR RECOGNITION

At the request of Dr. Roberto Casas, Mental Health Commissioner, Veronica Kelley shared a document written by Dr. Lily Rivera, wife of Dr. Tom Rivera, Mental Health Commissioner. Entire document is attached to original minutes only; however highlights include:

- "We celebrate the Cinco de Mayo, not in recognition of a battle in another nation, but to battle for recognition in this nation - recognition that we are equal to all others in intellect and goodness, that we represent a positive element in American Society".
- "If our deeds are not applauded, if our achievements are not celebrated, if our contribution to this nation is not lauded today, our grandchildren will have nothing to honor about us tomorrow."
- "Part of the battle for recognition involves the fact that to many people in this nation, we are not "real" Americans."

- “If Hispanics are to achieve recognition in this nation, I believe that we must achieve three goals.”
 1. Unless we respect ourselves enough to speak up for ourselves, we will not fully enjoy the fruits of American citizenship
 2. Push ourselves to greater achievements...get involved in the social, educational and political process of this nation
 3. We must exercise that right to address the issues that prohibit us from developing our full potential and sharing our talents with this great nation

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Linda Hart, President, African American Mental Health Coalition (AAMHC) stated that after voicing concerns to the County of San Bernardino Mental Health Commission (MHC) with no outcome, the members of the African American Mental Health Coalition voiced their same concerns to the California Mental Health Planning Council in Riverside on April 22.

The AAMHC submitted a Letter of Request to the members of the Commission dated May 6, 2010 requesting that the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) provide hard copies of:

1. Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) performance outcomes and program reports from the 92411 zip code.
2. Which agencies are providing MHSA services in the 92411 zip code?
3. Ethnicity, gender and age data of individuals being served that reside in the 92411 area code.
4. Evidence that 92411 data used in the County of San Bernardino DBH FY 08-09 Annual Report has been removed.

Linda Hart stated that historically, no mental health services have ever been located in the 92411 zip code. The AAMHC looks forward to working with the department and the Commission on addressing 92411 community concerns.

Assistant Director CaSonya Thomas responded to the 4 questions above:

1. State has yet to develop the guidelines for performance outcomes and program reports.
2. DBH will work on providing information regarding agencies that provide MHSA services in the 92411 zip code. This information is based on client disclosure.
3. DBH will provide requested data.
4. The 92411 zip code is in one of the 11 catchment areas. It is not conducive to remove this data from the program description.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

First District:

Commissioner Bill Swift thanked Kim Rosa, Chief Patients' Rights Advocate for working with him to provide assistance to a court client.

Second District:

Commissioner May Farr announced that April 13 was Cambodian New Year and also the start of the lunar calendar. This date was chosen by ancestors as the end of the harvest season and the start of the New Year. This date is celebrated to bring good luck, longevity and prosperity in life.

Commissioner Michael Hill announced that the next District Advisory Committee for the Second and Fourth Districts will meet at South Coast Community Services on May 17.

Third District:

Commissioners Chris Massa and Tom Rivera are hoping to set up a DAC meeting at the new clubhouse in Redlands.

Fourth District:

Commissioner Jane Mercer continues to assist homeless people on the streets in Ontario to receive services.

Commissioner Roberto Casas, Linda Hart and four other panelists participated on the interview panel for the DBH Deputy Director of Children's Services on April 23rd. Metropolitan State Hospital will present a video review of "Hope on the Street" to shatter stigma of mental health and homelessness on May 8th. He also invited Commissioner McGee-Stehsel and the Cal State nursing students for a visit and tour of Metropolitan State Hospital.

Fifth District:

Commissioner Veatrice Jews attended the MHSA Annual Update Public Hearing at Temple Outreach in San Bernardino. She also attended the Perris Hill Community Center meeting in regards to the upcoming Transitional Age Youth center construction on Gilbert Street in San Bernardino. Commissioner Jews sister is a CEO of a mental health agency in Louisiana. Her sister mentioned that San Bernardino County is much further ahead in regards to mental health. She has invited Commissioner Jews to be keynote speaker at a conference in June. It is the duty of the Commission to address mental health concerns that are brought to the attention of the Commission. She hopes that time can be set aside at the August 5th District Advisory Committee training to focus on the roles and duties of the Mental Health Commissioners.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Assistant Director CaSonya Thomas announced that Michael Schertell has been appointed DBH Deputy Director of Children's Services and Regional Operations effective May 8th. Mr. Schertell has been acting in this capacity for the past 18 months.

The CONREP bill, SB 1265 sponsored by Senator Dutton, passed the Senate on May 3, 2010. The initiation of this bill came about as a result of the Upland homicide in January and will now provide local law enforcement the name and location of clients in the Conditional Release Program.

FY 2009-2010 State and County Budget

We are anticipating the Governor's May Revise. The County is negotiating Cost of Living Adjustments with local unions. The department cost containment strategies have been effective.

DBH received feedback from recent community meetings suggesting public meetings be held at a time more conducive to public participation. Due to the role of the Mental Health Commission as an advisory board it may be helpful to have a few meetings a year after work hours or on a Saturday.

MHSA Housing Project: Horizons at Yucaipa

Doug Fazekas, Housing Administrative Manager, announced that Urban Housing Communities has been approved by the Board of Supervisors to develop the first affordable housing project for mentally ill older adults which will be located in Yucaipa.

Dr. Ralph Ortiz, Deputy Director stated that we are working on many more MHSA affordable housing projects throughout San Bernardino County: San Bernardino, Barstow, Victorville, and Ontario. Commissioner Jane Mercer asked, "If a person's only income is \$800 a month, will they be eligible for this MHSA program?" Commissioner Tom Rivera asked, "Why was Yucaipa selected as the site for the affordable housing project?" Dr. Ralph Ortiz will provide a detailed written response to the members of the Commission for both questions.

Supplemental MHSA Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Statewide Programs Assignment Agreement

Michelle Dusick, PEI Coordinator announced that County of San Bernardino will reassign funding to the California Department of Mental Health (DMH) for implementation of statewide PEI projects through the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA), a Joint Powers Authority (JPA). The three MHSA PEI Statewide Programs include:

1. Suicide Prevention
2. Student Mental Health Initiative
3. Stigma and Discrimination Reduction

This plan will be posted for the Public Comment and Review period for 30 days.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Annual Update Public Hearing Process

Mariann Ruffolo, MHSA Coordinator presented an overview of the MHSA Annual Update Report on Public Hearings: Public hearing press releases were sent to 43 newspapers and other news agencies. Flyers in English and Spanish were sent to all coalitions, 31 county public libraries, etc. Linda Hart asked for a list of community meetings that were held in the 92411 zip code. Substantive Comments received:

- AAMHC submitted a written statement requesting deletion of the 35% reduction from PEI programs included in the annual update. *County response: Fiscal Year (FY) 2010/11 PEI planning estimates were reduced by 35% from the prior fiscal year for San Bernardino County. Despite the significant decrease in the FY 10/11 planning estimates, DBH would continue all previously approved PEI programs through the use of unexpended funds.*
- Integrated Healthcare Project should not have a predetermined location. Continue stakeholder process to determine a site within one of the eleven catchment areas. *The wording in the Annual Update was changed to reflect this request.*

MHSA Annual Update will be submitted to the State on May 11, 2010. Upon approval this Plan will result in \$4 million of MHSA funding.

Upcoming Special Presentations include:

- June 3, 2010 Project Return Players by David Miller, Peer and Family Advocate II
- July 1, 2010 Prison Re-entry Program by Ralph Ortiz, Deputy Director
- **August 5, 2010 NO MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION PUBLIC SESSION: Members of the Mental Health Commission and DBH stakeholders will participate in a District Advisory Committee Technical Assistance Training.**
- September 2, 2010 Jail Mental Health Services by Teri Self, Program Manager, Forensic Services
- October 7, 2010 African American Health Institute of San Bernardino County by Dr. V. Dianne Woods, CEO, President (*tentatively scheduled*).

ACTION ITEMS

- The members of the Mental Health Commission reviewed the MHSA FY 10-11 Annual Update to be submitted to the State.
- Approval of DRAFT Behavioral Health Commission Bylaws was deferred until June 3rd Public Session.

OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS

Michael Townsend, Field Representative for Supervisor Josie Gonzales announced that on May 11 the Board of Supervisors will issue a Proclamation designating May 10 as Asian Pacific Mental Health Day. The Asian Pacific Islanders make up 7% of the population in San Bernardino County; however only 2% seek treatment. Mental Health Coalition are working to overcome stigma related to mental health in their community.

Lynn Neuenswander, DBH Public Information Officer announced activities planned for May is Mental Health Month:

1. May 3-28: Consumer Art Exhibit at the Government Center
2. May 3-14: Suitcases in the Attic Exhibit at the County Museum; then from May 17-28 at the Government Center
3. May 19, 2010 – Transitional Age Youth One Stop Center Groundbreaking Ceremony from 9-10pm on Gilbert Street
4. May 19, 2010 – Evening with the Stars from 6-9 p.m. at the Ontario Doubletree Hotel. Christopher Kennedy Lawford as the keynote speaker. Nominations are due by May 10th. The attendance of 50 consumers has been sponsored so far.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further items to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

David Ford
Chairperson

Debi Pasco
Clerk of the Mental Health Commission